

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>

September 18, 2003

E1 - 841

Operations Division

SUBJECT: CEMVR-OD-P-452420

Mr. Kevin M. Seals
Hanson Professional Services
1525 South Sixth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Mr. Seals:

Our office reviewed all information provided to us concerning the proposed railroad construction and abandonment activities in Peoria County, Illinois.

We determined your project as proposed does not require a Department of the Army (DA) Section 404 permit. The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision. No indication of discharge of dredged or fill material was found to occur in waters of the United States (including wetlands). Therefore, this determination resulted.

You are advised that this determination for your project is valid for five years from the date of this letter. If the project is not completed within this five-year period or your project plans change, you should contact our office for another determination.

Although a DA Section 404 permit is not required for the project as proposed, you must still acquire other applicable Federal, state, and local permits.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Regulatory Branch by letter, or telephone me at 309/794-5674.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene W. Walsh".

Gene W. Walsh
Project Manager
Enforcement Section

Letter to Kevin M. Seals
September 23, 2003
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City of Peoria's Comprehensive Plan and the Heartland Riverfront Master Plan. The proposed improvement is also consistent with the Illinois State Trails Plan and the Illinois SCORP plan. The project is endorsed by all sponsors, the Regional Trail Advisory Task Force, The Illinois Valley Wheelmen, Greater Peoria Transit District, Illinois Department of Transportation, CILCO / Ameren, Peoria School District 150 and State and Federal legislators. In total, over \$11,000,000 in federal, state and local dollars have been appropriated for portions of the bicycle trail and Illinois River crossing. The Peoria Park District and its consultants have nearly completed the engineering of the proposed trail. At risk is nearly \$3,800,000 in appropriated federal, state and local dollars for construction if the Kellar Branch is not railbanked.

The benefit of the proposed trail is this trail will connect to other trails in the Peoria metropolitan area resulting in over eighty miles of continuous bicycle trail. This trail system will connect homes, businesses, parks, schools, restaurants, shopping, historic attractions and major employment centers. The improvement will create a safer environment for bicyclists and pedestrians and provide an alternative mode of transportation. The proposed trail will link neighborhoods currently separated by high traffic volume highways (I #74, IL #6, IL #24, IL #29, IL #40 and US #150).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Wheeler".

David Wheeler,
Administrative Assistant